

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 6:00 p.m.  
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Roll Call:**

Members Present: Robert Bent, Jeff Mease, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Kent Berglund, Cynthia Schultz, Toby Strout, Paul Schneller

Regrets: Steve Ashkin, Christine Glaser, Dave Rollo, Jim Sherman

**Call to Order/Approval of Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03. The meeting minutes from May 13, 2008 were not voted on for approval and it was requested that the minutes be re-worked for approval at the July meeting. John Hamilton asked that the statement sent to City Council regarding the City of Bloomington Utilities Department water expansion project also be entered into the May meeting minutes. John read the statement to the commission.

**Public Comment:**

Steve Forest discussed the difficulties this week with issues related to the flooding, gas prices, bicycle safety, and healthcare. He also mentioned that Dan Burden, an expert in “walkable communities”, has been invited back to Bloomington. Mr. Forest would like to make sure the city gets the most out of Mr. Burden’s visit and will ask the commission to support this visit.

**Announcements:**

Paul Schneller asked about a list of emails for commission members only.

Jeff Mease announced that he has hired some one research composting from a food service and commercial facility. His new employee has come across an expert named David Hill, as a composting consultant. Jeff asked anyone with good information on composting to be sure to send it his way. He mentioned that his company is currently composting about 600 pounds per week.

John Hamilton addressed the performance of the Bloomington infrastructure in regards to the recent flooding. John also expressed his concern about the possible merger of Bloomington Hospital and Clarian Healthcare and the possibility of Bloomington Hospital moving from their downtown location to a facility at the intersection of State Road 37 and State Road 46

Toby Strout announced that if some one is interested and would use it, she has a steel warehouse available.

**Presentation by Barry Lessow: Executive Director of Monroe County United Way**

Mr. Lessow is the Director of the Monroe County United Way. He began by giving a brief history of the organization, started in Denver, Colorado nearly 125 years ago. He spoke about how the mission of United Way has been re-centered to help and try to make communities better for individuals and families, and that all communities are different but that there are common challenges amongst these communities in poverty, healthcare, and other areas. He discussed the organization’s three pillars to a good life: education, income, and health in great detail and with local level examples.

He went on to pass out information about the United Way and data on issues facing Monroe County. Mr. Lessow spoke of a partnership with local political leaders to have a community roundtable discussion on poverty and family issues facing the county. This event will take place on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 12-2 in The Commons at Ivy Tech Community College. Mr. Lessow is also looking to have representatives from the Family and Social Services Administration.

John Hamilton asked Mr. Lessow how he defined local business. He responded by saying if all management decisions are made here in Bloomington it is a local business.

Mr. Lessow feels that the City and United Way have an excellent relationship. There is nothing that the city is “falling down on.” Every department “gets it.” However, he would like to mention that as the city conducts future planning and infrastructure to keep in mind transportation for the poor.

#### **Discussion on Legislative Committee:**

The commission began discussing a proposal by Christine Glaser in which she calls for a legislative committee to be implemented under the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability.

John Hamilton did not want to jump into anything without Christine present. The rest of the commission felt the same way.

Paul Schneller added that this would be a good topic for the retreat. Many other members agreed with making this a topic for the retreat.

Cynthia Schultz addressed two problems that could come from the addition of this committee: resources and calling it a legislative committee may be too political. She said that calling it an advocacy group may relieve this political perception.

The general consensus among the commission is to look at all the different committee roles and where a legislative committee would fit in during a commission retreat. The commission agreed to put this on an agenda for the retreat. John Hamilton added that the retreat could be held as early as this coming fall.

#### **Discussion on Greenhouse Gases Letter:**

Robert Bent started the discussion with a summary of the letter. He later added that there are some specifics that the commission does not understand. However, he felt as though it should be sent to the Mayor. Mr. Bent would also like to know if there are any suggestions from members of the commission on things to add or revising points for the letter.

John Hamilton addressed two important points that should be included in the letter: the Kyoto deadline is coming up and the necessity of having a summit.

Paul Schneller felt that the letter should highlight the five goals and drop specifics on short-term steps. He noted that the letter is long.

John Hamilton said that the commission can agree on the idea of endorsing the letter. He stated that the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability will approve the letter after they make suggestions and look at it again.

Kent Berglund seconded this statement.

A vote was taken; it passed unanimously to approve the letter after suggestions are made and the commission has a chance to look at it again.

**Staff Reports:**

During this portion of the meeting the commission discussed the relocation of the hospital. The majority of the commission felt as though it is necessary for the commission to make at least a statement on the issue.

Cynthia Schultz said that the commission can send something that says we discussed it and urge them to reconsider the move of the hospital.

John Hamilton added that he feels the commission should have a strong statement on this issue. Toby Strout seconded this idea. He went on to motion that the commission makes a statement regarding this issue. The motion was seconded and then voted on.

It was passed unanimously to make a statement about the relocation of the hospital.

The following is the statement that was sent to the City Council:

*To City Council Members:*

*Last evening the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability discussed the proposed bylaw changes for the Local Council of Women, and the potential corporate governance change for Bloomington Hospital. BCOS did not take any position on the corporate governance issue, and did not address specifics of bylaw changes.*

*BCOS did adopt the following resolution and respectfully asks that the council consider it in your deliberations and actions:*

*"BCOS believes that responsible consideration of the three "E's" -- the economy, the environment, and social equity -- counsels on the importance of retaining major medical facilities and related health providers in the core city of Bloomington."*

*Speaking as chairman, I believe BCOS did not want to weigh in on specific merger questions -- what is best for the hospital in the long run in terms of corporate governance and partners -- but did want to state unequivocally that for a sustainable Bloomington, it is very important to retain in the core city our hospital and the many ancillary offices and providers in the health industry. This is important to our city's economy, to the environmental impact of health care, and to the fairness to all our citizens, especially those of lesser means or greater needs. If governance issues could diminish the realization of this objective, BCOS wants to urge the council to attend closely and creatively to the issues.*

*Thank you for your attention.*

*John Hamilton  
Chair, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability*

*cc: Mayor Kruzan*

**Committee Reports:**

There was nothing for the committees to report on that was not already discussed throughout the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Hooker Room of City Hall.